

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CORPORATE RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE O&S

COMMITTEE

1030 hours on 10th January 2018, Committee Room 2 – Action Notes

Present:

Councillor Mohammed Aikhlaq (Chair)

Councillors Muhammed Afzal, Randal Brew, Debbie Clancy, Liz Clements, Meirion Jenkins, Changese Khan, Yvonne Mosquito, Rob Pocock, Sybil Spence, Paul Tilsley, Waseem Zaffar

Also Present:

Cllr Ian Ward, Leader of the Council

Chris Jordan, Assistant Director, Place

Paula Buckley, Assistant Director, Customer Services

Sheraz Yaqub, BRUM Account Project Manager

Iram Choudry, Research & Policy Officer, Scrutiny Office

Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chairman advised the meeting to note that this meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and that Members of the press/public may record and take photographs.

2. APOLOGIES

None received.

3. CORPORATE RESOURCES & GOVERNANCE – ACTION NOTES DECEMBER 2017

RESOLVED

(See document No 1)

The action notes from December 2017 were agreed.

The Chair and the Committee thanked Cllr Ewan Mackey for his contribution and involvement in the committee and welcomed Cllr Clancy and Cllr Clements to the Committee.

4. UPDATE ON THE BRUM ACCOUNT

(See document No 2)

Paula Buckley and Sheraz Yacub attended for this item and made the following key points:

- As part of the on-going development of the Birmingham.gov website, the existing online account function would be replaced with the new BRUM account functionality.
- It would provide users with a more dynamic, reliable and flexible on-line experience.
- The new account functionality would go online from March 2018.
- Members Portal: The new system would enable Members to record and track enquiries on behalf of constituents and escalate cases when deadlines have passed.
- This would be available to all Members following May 18 elections
- A cross party member working group was set up to capture feedback from Members on functionality and usability.

Responding to questions and comments from the Committee, Paula made the following points

- Input from Members on the development of the portal would be welcomed; Councillors Brew, Pocock and Zaffar put themselves forward.
- There are security safeguards built into the website to reduce hacking
- She is confident the new website will generate savings of £3.858 m over the next six years and would be made up of reduction in the costs of IT support, reduction in printing and postage costs and some staff reductions. With regards to reducing costs through reduced printing, Councillors agreed that they should lead by example.
- Digital exclusion was an area the organisation is acutely aware of and they will ensure that citizens would still be able to contact the Council via the telephone
- They have worked hard to ensure the new website is compatible on as many mobile devices as possible.
- The interface with central government websites is an area that could be looked at in the future.
- The team was congratulated on its good work.

RESOLVED

Figures on Customer Services to be presented to committee at next month's meeting
Members would be involved in the testing of the portal.

5. REQUEST FOR CALL-IN: REDIRECTION OF CORPORATE CAPITAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY LIBRARIES STRATEGY

(See Document 3)

Cllr Randal Brew and Cllr Debbie Clancy presented their reasons for the Call-in:

- West Heath library was a much loved resource for the local community and the proposal to move it to the alternative site at Oddingley Hall was not feasible for a number of reasons :
 - The local community felt let down as they had not been appropriately consulted on these proposals and the results from the consultation carried out by the City Council had also not been shared with the local councillors or the community.
 - The money for rebuilding the library had been allocated in budgets for a number of years and with the change in administration, it had been redirected to support the wider community libraries strategy which is unfair to the community of West Heath.

Cllr Ward responded with the following points:

- He agreed with a number of points raised by both Councillors but the reality of the scale of budget savings having to be implemented by Birmingham City Council has had a massive impact on the services provided by the council, e.g. the interest repayments for the Library of Birmingham alone total approximately £1m a month and this has had a detrimental effect on community libraries across the Birmingham.
- He disagreed with the assertion that the consultation carried out was not comprehensive enough. The consultation on libraries undertaken in 2016/17 was one of the best consultations completed by the City Council.

Members sought clarification on the reasons for the call-in as it would appear the two Councillors were making reference to the decision already posted in the February 2017 report.

RESOLVED

Following a vote from the committee, it was decided the decision would not be Called in. (two for, eight against).

6. CORPORATE RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE – WORK PROGRAMME DECEMBER 2017

The Members agreed to cancel the April meeting of the Committee.

The Committee would receive a briefing note on the Commonwealth Games

7. REQUEST FOR CALL-IN

None

8. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None

9. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

Agreed

The meeting finished at 1215 hours.